Stave I – Literary Analysis (pgs. 1-16)

1. **What was the significance in Charles Dickens emphasizing Marley’s death to the reader?**
   It creates a mysterious mood. Scrooge didn’t want to hear anything that Marley had to say; he finds his words and message almost unreasonable. It helps set up the story because it explains the reasoning for the ghosts’ visits.

2. **How is the atmosphere of Scrooge’s office at the beginning of the novel symbolic with the time period?**
   It is symbolic because it represents the harsh treatment of the poor during this time. It also is cold and depressing just like Scrooge!

3. **What might the doorknocker and the bells foreshadow?**
   They might foreshadow the fact that something strange is going to happen.

4. **How does Scrooge’s reaction to the businessmen in Stave I illuminate his likeness to the beliefs of Victorian England?**
   His reaction is representative of how the upper/middle class felt about the poor. He thinks that his taxes pay for establishments (Treadmill and Poor law) that “help” the poor, so he’s done his part.

5. **“His nephew left the room without an angry word, notwithstanding. He stopped at the outer door bestowed greetings of the season on the clerk, who, cold as he was, was warmer than Scrooge.”**
   What do you think Charles Dickens wanted the readers or that time period to take from the previous excerpt?
   This demonstrates how Dickens’ thought that people should treat others (better!).

6. **“Business! . . . Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!”**
   **What is the significance of this quote?**
   Marley now understands that he focused on the wrong things in life. He worried about money instead of things like charity!

7. **How did Charles Dickens create a dismal, gloomy, and intimidating mood at the beginning of Stave I?**
   The tone is depressing because of the description of the setting, Scrooge and his appearance and actions.

8. **What is Marley’s purpose in visiting his former partner?**
   He is there to warn him and to hopefully stop him from suffering the same fate.

9. **“Scrooge signed it: and Scrooge’s name was good upon ‘Change, for anything he chose to put his hand to.”**
   **What was the literary purpose of the previous excerpt? Why is it important?**
   Foreshadowing: He could put his mind to something and accomplish it.
1. How does the flashback of Scrooge’s fiancé breaking off their engagement help develop the plot?
It helps the reader understand why Scrooge chooses to be alone and that he is a mean, old, miserable miser.

2. The strange figure-like a child; yet not so like a child as like an old man is symbolic. What does it symbolize?
It symbolizes memories of Scrooge’s younger days that were rather old.

3. What do the summer flowers, delicate legs and muscular arms of the Ghost of Christmas Past most likely symbolize?
They symbolized memories from when Scrooge was younger (from a long time ago and also more recent).

4. What is the purpose of the flashbacks in Stave II?
They help the reader understand that Scrooge was lonely, but he was at one time a well-loved brother, apprentice and friend. However, he began to love money more than anything else due to his fear of not having enough money.

5. What is one of Scrooge’s first signs of emotion that is contradictory to his personality?
The tear on his cheek when he saw himself all alone as a young boy.

6. The light coming from the Ghost of Christmas Past’s head was a symbol of
It was a symbol of the truth (joy and spirit of the season too) and memories of Scrooge’s past.

7. The Ghost of Christmas Past states to Scrooge...“Would you soon put out the, with worldly hands, the light I give? Is it not enough that you are one of those whose passions made this cap and forced me through whole trains of years to wear it low upon my brow?”  What is the cap most likely a symbol of?
It is a symbol of the greed and selfishness that Scrooge has let take over him.

8. At the end of Stave II, Scrooge shoves the cap over the Ghost of Christmas Past’s head in order to extinguish the light. What does this action symbolize?
Scrooge is trying to “put out” the “light” of Christmas, which includes his painful memories of his past that he was forced to re-visit.

9. When Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past looked upon the past memory of Fezziwig, Scrooge became angry with the Ghost of Christmas Past when he stated “A small matter, “ said the Ghost, “to make these silly folks so full of gratitude.”  What was the Ghost’s purpose in this statement?
It was to show him what a terrible boss he has been. Money isn’t what should make you happy. His priorities are not right.

10. Which flashback was meant to show Scrooge what he missed out on in life?
His ex-fiancée broke up with him, and then he saw her and her husband and family.

11. What is the scene in his past that makes Scrooge begin to weep?
Himself, alone, at school

12. What are Scrooge’s tear, his sadness due to his treatment of the caroler and Bob Cratchit, his defense of Fezziwig’s generosity, his torture in seeing Belle, and his anger at the Ghost of Christmas Past an indication of?
He isn’t as cold and mean as he appeared. He’s showing emotion, which proves he’s capable of changing. He is starting to understand how the events from his past made him into the man he is today.
1. What might Scrooge’s reaction when the second spirit doesn’t arrive “when the bell struck One,” indicate about his personality?
He is freaked out, but he still doesn’t want to admit it.

2. What can the reader infer about Scrooge, based on his reaction to Present’s comment that the Spirit has had more than eighteen hundred brothers come before him?
He still doesn’t fully understanding the purpose of the ghost’s visits; he hasn’t changed his mindset yet.

3. What can the reader infer about Scrooge’s immediate reaction when Christmas Present shows him the Cratchit home and Bob’s large family?
He thinks he has a large family to support on such a small salary. It mentions how little he gets paid. He’s surprised that they are still “blessed” with the Christmas spirit from the ghost.

4. What fate does Christmas Present predict for Tiny Tim?
He will die before the next Christmas.

5. Why does Fred tell his wife that he will continue to ask his Uncle Ebeneezr for Christmas dinner every year?
He feels bad for him, and he hopes that maybe he will get through to Scrooge.

6. Present says to Scrooge, “‘If he be liked to die, he had better do it and decrease the surplus population.’” Why is this quote significant?
He is using him words against him to show him who the words really apply to (Tiny Tim and the Cratchit family).

7. “If these shadows remain unaltered by the future, none other of my race will find him here.” Why is this quote significant?
Tiny Tim won’t make it to another Christmas. Scrooge has the ability to change Tiny Tim’s fate by changing himself.

8. Who are the brothers that the Spirit of Christmas Present refers to?
The Spirits of Christmas Present that have come before him

9. Symbolically, what does the Ghost of Christmas Present sprinkle from his torch?
Kindness

10. Christmas Spirit says that he sprinkles his incense on the poor most because they need it most. Why does he say this?
They are in the most need of food, shelter, etc. and of compassion from those around them.

11. Scrooge is ashamed when he hears of the fate of Tiny Tim, and the Spirit repeats Scrooge’s own words to him from Stave I. What message is Dickens is trying to share with his readers?
That everyone deserves to be treated kindly.

12. Bob Cratchit calls Scrooge “the Founder of the Feast” and offers up a toast to him. What is Dickens’s purpose behind this action? (What is he trying to emphasize?)
This shows how different Cratchit and Scrooge are; Bob is incredibly kind, compassionate and generous.
13. *When Christmas Present takes Scrooge to visit the Miners, and Scrooge asks where they are; Christmas Present says, “A place where Miners live, who labour in the bowels of the earth,” returned the Spirit. ‘But they know me. See!’* What is Christmas Present trying to show Scrooge?

He’s trying to show him how difficult their jobs are, but they still are thankful and have holiday spirit in their hearts.

14. *What does the empty scabbard (sword holder) that Christmas Present bears most likely symbolize?*

Peace

15. *Christmas Present makes the following statement to Scrooge regarding Boy Ignorance and Girl Want: “And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers.” Why do they cling to the Spirit?*

They need kindness and generosity, which the Ghost of Christmas Present represents.

16. *What is the significance of Mrs. Cratchit agreeing to toast Scrooge?*

She doesn’t want to quarrel with her husband; she loves and respects him. Also, she does have the Christmas spirit in her heart.

17. *What does the throne which Christmas Present sits upon at the beginning of Stave III symbolize?*

It symbolizes that he has a lot of money (wealth), and it also represents abundance (there is a LOT of food there!).

18. *The following is part of the description of Christmas Present: “Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanor, and its joyful air.” When you think about what Christmas Present symbolizes, what kind of spirit does Dickens most likely wants his readers to visualize?*

He wants them to visualize a Spirit who is the opposite of Scrooge. He appears to be very kind.

19. *Scrooge notices the aging of the Ghost of Christmas Present as midnight approaches. What does the Ghost explain that is aging is due to?*

Because he only lives one day

20. *Why does the Ghost of Christmas Present say that Scrooge should fear the boy ignorance more than anything?*

There was a feeling that those who were uneducated would be taking over, and things would fall apart within the society.

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**Stave IV – Literary Elements (pgs. 50-62)**

1. *When Scrooge asks the Ghost of Christmas Future to show him someone who feels emotion about the man’s death, the Ghost takes him to which of the following scenes?*

He saw his ex-fiancé and her family showing happiness (and guilt because of their happiness) over the death because they had debt owed to him.

2. *What does the outstretched hand of Christmas Future most likely symbolize?*

What will happen if things don’t change

3. *Before Scrooge looks at the gravestone, the text states, “‘Men’s courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead,’ said Scrooge. ‘But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change. Say it is thus with what you show me!’* Why does Scrooge say this to the Spirit?

He wants to know if he will have time to change. Is the Spirit showing him these things because he will have the opportunity to change? It is also symbolic because it represented the fact that things in England need to change!
4. “‘Spirit!’ he cried, tight clutching at its robe, ‘hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope?’”  Following this question, the Spirit’s hand appears to shake for the first time.  What is the significance?

This shows Scrooge that he pities him, and he will get an opportunity to change.

5. What scene made Scrooge so angry that he demanded to see some sympathy for the dead man?

The scene with emotion that he was shown was one of happiness.  That made him very angry.

6. Why does Scrooge say he fears Christmas Future more than any other Spirit?

He is afraid of what lies ahead for him if he doesn’t change (the future that was mapped out for him based on the type of person he had been).

7. Situational irony can be defined as “An outcome contrary to what was or might have been expected.”

What was ironic about Scrooge’s reaction to the conversation among Old Joe, First Man, First Woman, and Mrs. Dilber when they were discussing the dead man’s belongings?

They showed no sympathy or respect for the man’s death.  Like Scrooge, they only cared about making money (just like he did when Marley died).

8. Scrooge asks Christmas Future to show him someone who feels emotion connected with the death.  Why is the scene that the Spirit shows Scrooge so important?

It’s important because he is unable to see someone who feels sad over the man’s death.  By asking this, it shows that he is starting to care about others and isn’t just worrying about himself.

9.  “‘Holding up his hands in one last prayer to have his fate reversed, he saw an alteration in the Phantom’s hood and dress.  It shrunk, collapsed, and dwindled down into a bedpost.’”  What might this symbolize?

It shows that his past would be erased, and he would have another chance to start over.

10. The description and details of Bob Cratchit are very different in Stave I as compared to Stave III.  What is Dickens’s purpose for this?

He gives more details about Bob Cratchit by calling him by his name and showing his family instead of just referring to him as the “clerk” and not really providing many details about him.

11.  “‘If he wanted to keep ‘em after he was dead, a wicked old screw... why wasn’t he natural in his lifetime?  If he had been, he’d have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself.’”  Why is this quote significant?

The people didn’t have any respect for the dead man.  He died alone because he didn’t have anyone that cared about him, which was his own fault.

12.  “‘I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.  I will live in the Past, Present, and the Future.  The Spirits of all three shall strive within me.  I will not shut out the lessons that they teach.  Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!’”  What is the significance of this quote?

It really conveys Dickens’ message about how people should treat one another.  It also conveys that the Spirits visits did affect Scrooge in a positive way.  He demonstrates his desire to change for the better.

13. When Scrooge asks to see tenderness connected to a death, what scene is Scrooge is shown?

Tiny Tim’s death
14. “‘Spirit!’ said Scrooge, shuddering from head to foot. ‘I see, I see. The case of this unhappy man might be my own.’” What does this quote indicate?
He’s finally put the pieces together and realizes that he was the dead man that people were talking about and the scenes he was in.

15. How does the scene at old Joe’s parlor relate to the values and beliefs of Victorian England?
It shows that people had to do what they could to survive.

16. How is this stave full of irony? Explain. (STAVE IV)
We as readers know that we are seeing scenes and reactions to Scrooge’s death, but he doesn’t realize it until much later.

17. Which scene best depicts how others feel about Scrooge?
The scene where Caroline (Belle) and her husband are happy about Scrooge’s death because they owed him money; they’re relieved he’s dead.

18. Mood in Stave IV vs. Stave V

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Describe the mood in Stave IV</th>
<th>Cite evidence from the text to support your response</th>
<th>Describe the mood in Stave V</th>
<th>Cite evidence from the text to support your response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Anxious, Dark, dreary, depressing | -Seeing other’s reactions to his death  
-Seeing how people disrespect him  
-Scrooge asks questions, but doesn’t get the answers to them; he has to figure things out himself | Happy  
Joyful  
Grateful | |

19. How does Scrooge say he will treat Christmas from now on? How does it tie to the central message/theme Dickens wanted to get across to the readers of Victorian England?
He will keep it in his heart all year round. It relates to the message of hope that Dickens’ wanted to see within the people of England.

20. Why do you think Scrooge says he will love his door knocker for as long as he lives?
It reminds him of the beginning of his unusual evening, in which he encountered three Spirits that changed his life.